

The Journal-News, Tuesday, May 14, 1991

New group to battle censorship

By Michael J. Shearer
Of the Journal-News

FAIRFIELD — A new organization that says it will concentrate on publicizing the names of politicians who support what it calls censorship has joined the growing controversy concerning the rental of X-rated video cassettes in Butler County.

The Stop Censorship in Butler County group, which has about 40 members, announced Monday that it will fight Citizens For Community Values as that group attempts to drive X-rated movies from county stores.

At a rally earlier this month, CCV called on local officials to pressure video store owners until no X-rated videos are available in the county. Following the rally, Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger pledged to help the group achieve its goal.

SCBC founder Nicolas Martin, of Fairfield, said while he does not watch X-rated movies, he wants to protect the rights of residents to rent or purchase sexually explicit movies.

"There are many people who don't like X-rated films and even find them offensive, but they find censorship more offensive," Martin said.

SCBC's founder also strongly criticized the CCV and its tactics, calling the group "religious zealots" who are wrong when they

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Battle

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suggest that pornographic movies lead to more rape and crime.

"They're religious fundamentalists and they're going about their business of trying to jam their views down people's throats," he said. "They intend to do this by using the police force and legal system."

CSBC plans to publicize the names of politicians who "support censorship" by placing advertisements and distributing leaflets. These politicians pose a serious threat to the rights of residents, Martin said.

"I just want them to mind their

own business," he said. "They represent a threat to the social order."

Despite SCBC's objections, Holzberger said Monday he still plans to crack down on video stores renting X-rated movies and to form a countywide citizen group to deal with the issue. About 60 residents have sent letters to Holzberger stating they support his efforts since CCV's rally, he said.

"I think that's a sign there's a strong opposition to the pornography," Holzberger said. "It's not my intent to be a censor or to come into people's homes."

Nicolas Martin, a Fairfield resident and founder of the group Stop Censorship in Butler County, says it was formed "to oppose the efforts of the Citizens for Community Values, some local churches and politicians to ban video tapes with sexual content."

Martin said his organization will work to protect the right of county residents to be able to buy or rent sexually-explicit video tapes, and other tapes which are not approved for viewing by fundamentalist religious activists.

Recently, Citizens for Community Values, surveyed 37

video stores in the county in the first part of its educational campaign.

The group listed three stores in Union Township as among the 14 in the county to carry what it classified as hardcore pornography.

"The SCBC will resist the efforts of a small band of fanatics and political grandstanders to treat Butler Countians like sheep," Martin said. "This is not Iran and we are not yet subject to the tyranny of Ayatollahs." He said his fight was more with politicians than with CCV.

Martin said residents of Butler

County, "like all Americans, have a right to pursue happiness in whatever form they choose, as long as it does not harm their neighbor. They do not need the permission of ministers or sheriffs to do so."

He charged that undercover agents go into video stores "ogle and count the adult tapes."

"They imply that video stores are renting tapes featuring beastiality, child molestation and murder, even though they know perfectly well this is a lie. "They are hoping though, that it is a sufficiently big lie to trick people into believing it. If there

haven't we heard of any video store being busted for renting such contemptible trash? Let the censors come forward now, today, with their evidence. If they have no evidence, let them stop engaging in McCarthyism."

Martin said his group would approve of arresting anyone who was involved in producing or distributing child pornography.

Stop censorship group formed

P.O. Box 18 - 771

Fairfield, OH 45018

(513) 677 - 6055

Group aims petition drive at censorship

By Linda Wright
Of the Journal-News

FAIRFIELD — The newly formed group Stop Censorship in Butler County stepped up its efforts Wednesday to combat what it calls "video tape censorship" by starting a countywide petition drive.

SCBC founder Nicolas Martin said the group was formed to counter Citizens for Community Values' efforts to have videos deemed pornographic removed

Leader: Efforts to educate citizens on CCV actions

from Butler County video store shelves. Earlier this month, county CCV chapters conducted the Butler County White Ribbon Campaign to rally support to force the videos out of the county.

"We want to educate people of the censorship actions of CCV and it's a way to notify people in a reasonable, sensible way," said Martin, executive director of the Consumer Health Education Council,

a national firm that publishes health articles.

The petition, which is crested with a bald eagle and bordered with American flags and pictures of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, bills itself as a "petition supporting American ideals and opposing government censorship."

Martin said the petition doesn't "ask anyone to say kind things

about porn." It condemns the making, sale, rental and ownership of child pornography, but it says that "citizens of Butler County have a right to own or rent, and have in their possession, reading, listening and viewing materials without government permission or interference . . ."

While Martin calls CCV efforts to pull X-rated movies from video stores censorship, Fairfield CCV

president Connie Haruch calls it "law enforcement."

"When we have obscenity laws throughout the country, to say it's censorship to obey the law is kind of ridiculous," Haruch said.

Haruch said the privacy of the home is protected by the Constitution, but video stores where so-called pornography is sold is covered by obscenity laws. "We have seven other counties (in the state) that have been prosecuting and

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Petition

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have been successful, and I feel we can do it in Butler County," she said.

SCBC, on the other hand, contends that the X-rated videos sold at area video stores, are not obscene by community standards, and thus not illegal.

The SCBC petition says that because the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the definition of obscenity is set by the community, and because county juries have twice refused to agree that sexually explicit video tapes are obscene . . . in Butler County the community standard is that such tapes are not legally obscene."

"I think we'll see a change (in the position) of elected public officials when they see that a large body of citizens are dissatisfied with their censorship activities," said Martin, who said he plans to widely publicize those politicians who refuse to sign the petition.

Owners

(Continued from Page E1)
Video in Fairfield, said the CCV's campaign was "not going to do any good."

She said her store has been contacted about removing the adult movies. She also said many of her customers have promised to back the store in any case. One reason the stores object to the campaign is that adult movies are not advertised within the store. "We're very discrete," Westrich said. "We don't grab anyone by the arm and drag them in to rent one." She did add however that adult movies were a "big part" her business. Epstein said that he "doesn't

publicize it; we don't have any banners for them. We have more children's videos than adult videos."

He claimed that the adult movies were "not a significant part of the business, they're really a minor part."

Neither store displays the movies or boxes, a customer must ask for the movie.

The retailers say they are just filling a need. "We don't determine what we carry — the public does," Epstein said.

To Connie Haruch, President of the Fairfield CCV, this argument doesn't hold much water. "Would they provide drugs for those who want them?" she wondered.

Fairfield in review

Township looks at Watch program

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP — With the scheduling of 10 informational meetings later this month, the township has taken the first step to establishing a Neighborhood Watch program.

The township will hold meetings twice a week from May 20 to June 27 at the administration building to explain to residents how the neighborhood watch program works and how they can establish block watch programs in their areas.

Fairfield Township Police Capt. Alan Laney, coordinator of the program, said one of the first neighborhood watch systems set up in the township was started by Tylersville Road residents Jenny Haley and her sister-in-law Camille DeBorde.

The township has had a slight increase in the number of burglaries and breakings and enterings over the past few

"What right do they have to tell other people what to do? Censorship is worse than pornography," Epstein points out that no one is forced to rent any movie they don't want to.

"You have to knowingly take it home and play it," he said. "Those aren't public showings."

Both Epstein and Westrich wonder why the CCV is concerned about something like pornography when there are so many other social ills. Epstein said they should worry about "alcohol and drug problems" not pornography.

She organized a local CCV chapter after attending the 1986 trial in which a local video store



Area CCV organizer Connie Haruch sees pornography as society's number one evil.

owner was acquitted of pandering obscenity charges for distributing tapes of adult movies.

That trial and the subsequent retrial both ended in hung juries, and Haruch, believes it was be-

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Among some 250 people who attended the White Ribbon rally against pornography Saturday on the Butler County Court-house lawn were at least two counter-demonstrators, Jay Stevinson and his son Nick were there, making it clear that while they are not pro-porn, they are pro-choice in the matter.

Schools' style

Sides face off over videos

Store owners see freedom as real issue

By Rob Ervin

"A ridiculous thing" is how Lou Epstein, owner of Showplace Video in Fairfield, described the latest campaign to rid the county of adult videos.

Citizens for Community Values (CCV) have started a white ribbon campaign to stop local video shops from renting adult movies.

"They've had their day in court and lost," Epstein said referring to the 1986 trial which acquitted a video shop owner of pandering obscenity.

Epstein pointed out that the CCV was the organization that led the crusade against the Mapplethorpe photo exhibit. Even though the CCV lost the case, Epstein said, the suit cost the Contemporary Arts Center over \$200,000 in legal fees.

Epstein said that small store

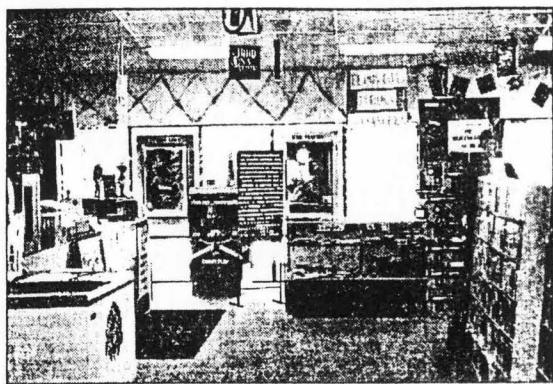


Photo by Rob Ervin

owners don't have as much money as the CCV, so he believes they may try to get another trial even though they know they can't win.

"For them to prosecute again is criminal," Epstein said. "The only way they can win is to bankrupt the retailers."

Fairfield Law Director John Clemons has been contacted by the CCV but said that "we would not bring on an action we did not think would be successful."

Jill Westrich, manager of Quik (Please see OWNERS, Page E2)

Some dispute Meese study

By Rob Ervin

Connie Haruch and the Citizens for Community Values rely heavily on the report by the 1986 Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, commonly known as the Meese Commission.

That report found that pornography was very harmful, especially to children. Although the report is nearly two-thousand pages long, Haruch said she has "gone through a good portion of it."

Many professional researchers and psychologists who have examined the report, however, have found it to be flawed in various areas.

A major complaint about the report was that it stated as an objective to recommend "more effective ways in which the spread of pornography could be contained." Thus it presupposed that pornography was harmful, according to Douglas E. Mould in an article published in American Psychologist.

The 1986 report had four months, \$400,000 and a staff of eleven with which to do their jobs.

Six of the eleven had records of being anti-pornography, giving the commission a bias, which some claim, destroyed its credibility.

A 1970 presidential commission had a budget of \$2 million, two years to complete their study and a twenty-two person staff. That commission had findings that were very different from the Meese Commission's.

In fact, the earlier commission called for more sex education from "legitimate sources" and a repeal of statutes against "the sale, exhibition, or distribution of sexual materials to consenting adults."

Haruch, a mother of four, dismisses criticism of the Meese Commission report. The "whole thing comes down to just good common sense" she said.

Some of the specific stories Haruch pointed out involved billions of dollars being spent on aid to teen mothers, high teen suicide and violence rates, New York City schools wanting to distribute free condoms and some universities wanting condom machines in the dormitories.

"We are having grave problems," she said.

Fairfield man watching 'Video Ayatollahs'



Photo by Rob Ervin
Fairfield's Nicholas Martin has founded a new organization called "Stop Censorship in Butler County."

By Rob Ervin

Nicholas Martin had always thought that Butler County was a good place to live. The Fairfield resident found the people to be friendly and the streets safe to walk.

So when the mayor of the biggest city in Butler County pronounced the county "sick," Martin was shocked.

Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas was speaking at the May 4 White Ribbon Against Pornography Day rally. Olivas and other county officials promised to take action to stop the distribution of videos they consider offensive.

To Martin, this sounded like censorship, so he founded a new organization called Stop Censorship in Butler County (SCBC).

As part of their anti-censorship campaign the SCBC has issued a petition that defines their position as "the traditional American view, that government officials should not become dictators of what consenting adult Americans read and watch," Martin said.

The public can hear the text of the petition by calling 677-6055.

Q: I understand that you do not rent adult videos, so why the interest in protecting them?

A: It's none of my business if other people do, but it's not a fashion in which I entertain myself. But the people who are promoting censorship here and elsewhere are not anxious to just stop with X-rated video tapes, they think for example that horror films are satanically inspired and should be prohibited or at least removed.

PRIME RIB BUFFET EVERY FRIDAY

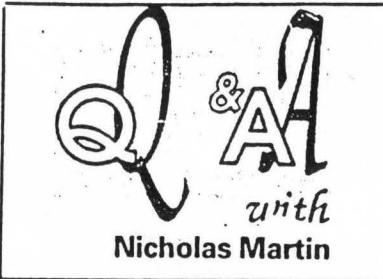
ALL YOU CAN EAT \$ 10⁹⁵
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refers to the elected officials.

The CCV is, obviously, entitled to argue for any position they choose, although I think arguing that people should be put in jail for harmless actions is not a very legitimate or moral position.

The people who are responsible for the safety and well-being of residents in the community are these elected officials who are running amuck right now on this censorship issue.

Q: Why do you think they are doing this?

A: Well I'm a little reluctant to impart motivation to people, but I have to assume that since the community doesn't seem to be in a noticeable state of decay, since these tapes are not brand new and people have been comfortably renting them and visiting stores where they are rented for a long time, that it's opportunistic vote seeking.

At the anti-pornography white ribbon rally it was very clearly a matter of just trying to incite the mob, particularly with Prosecutor (John) Holcomb and Mayor Olivas. They were bandying about incredibly irresponsible and inaccurate comments that could only be intended to inspire rebellion and backlash and discontent among the censorship crowd.

I'm hoping that there are sufficient numbers of elected officials in the county who realize that not only is it the morally and ethically correct thing to do, but that a huge percentage of their constituency rents adult material, has rented adult material or doesn't mind people renting adult material.

Newcomers club has new board

By Aileen Hunt

The new board of the Fairfield Newcomers club took office Thursday, at the club's final meeting before its summer break.

Incoming President Ruth Tueting, and the board will meet throughout the summer to plan next year's program.

"This has always been a club for everybody," said Tueting. "We hope to get everybody's input, find out what they'd like to do and

send the club in that direction."

Although the Newcomer's club was established originally for women new to Fairfield, there is no limit to the length of membership. Vicki Mattingly is typical of many members. She joined the club in 1978, and still enjoys attending its monthly meetings.

"The group was formed so that women who were new to the area could meet and make friends," she said. "But our philosophy is that no one in need of friendship will be denied membership, whether they're new to Fairfield, they've quit work to raise a family or

they're widowed. Everyone is welcome."

"Basically, we're a social group," said Mattingly. "We have a lot of activities — several bridge groups, a book review literary group, a group for new mothers called 'Tea and Tots.' We have a babysitting co-op, a toys and games group that meets to play cards or games like Trivial Pursuit or Pictionary. We have a stitchery group and we have some couples outings where we go out to dinner or a show."

The club meets on the third Thursday of each month at St.

Mark's Methodist Church in Fairfield. As well as enjoying lunch, members also listen to a guest speaker or watch a demonstration or style show.

"We try to choose local people to make presentations," said Mattingly. "This year, we've had a speaker from the Chamber of Commerce discussing the Hamilton Bicentennial. We've had a speaker from G.E. who spoke on Russia. We've had the zoo here several times, and we have nursery people here every Spring and Fall to talk about gardening and landscaping."

The Newcomer's Club publishes a monthly newsletter detailing up-coming events. Anyone interested in finding out more about the club should contact Alice Gra



Critic blasts mayor

Porn stance is challenged

By Steve Trigger
Of the Journal-News

HAMILTON — The head of the organization Stop Censorship in Butler County Wednesday challenged Mayor Adolf Olivas' public stance on prohibiting pornographic videos, and claimed Olivas erroneously indicated child pornography is available in the county.

Fairfield resident Nicholas Martin told the Hamilton City Council Wednesday that during an anti-pornography rally May 4, sponsored by Citizens for Community Values, Olivas cited locally available video tapes "that exploit children, that molest children. That show children being raped."

"You will be held accountable for the statements you make," Martin told Olivas.

Olivas, however, countered that he never said child pornography was available in Butler County.

Martin attended the meeting to read a prepared statement criticizing support from public officials for the anti-pornography stance embraced by the CCV.

Videotape censorship in Butler County would violate the constitutional rights of citizens in the county, Martin told the council.

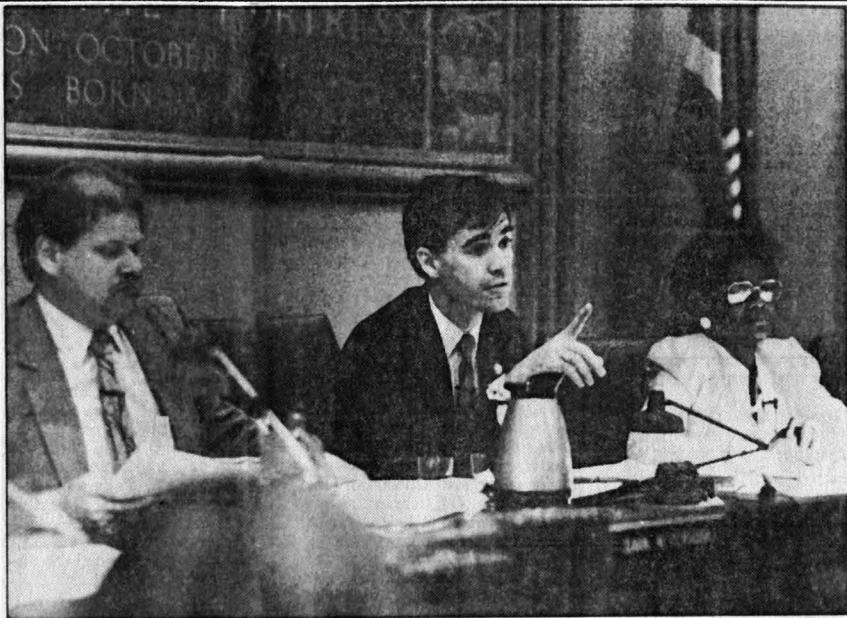
"Butler County and Hamilton officials want to make criminals of Mr. and Mrs. Butler County for slipping a tape in the VCR and turning on the TV," Martin said.

"I believe my views speak for the majority of (the city)," Olivas countered.

He also said that if Martin wanted to get into a battle of letters to determine the views of Butler County citizens, Olivas was confident the perspective of people opposed to pornography would prevail.

During his address before participants in the May 4 White Ribbons Against Pornography rally, Olivas said he feels pornographic videos degrade women and lead to imitation of the acts depicted in the material.

Martin said the rally represented the minority view of a fraction of the county's population, which threatens civil liberties in Butler County.



Staff photos by Ken York

Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas (above, center) responds to criticisms Wednesday about his participation in an anti-pornography rally May 4 as council member Dan Crank (above, left) and Vice Mayor Katherine Rumph-Cole (above, right) listen. Nicholas Martin, the Fairfield resident who heads the organization Stop Censorship in Butler County (below), disputes Olivas' May 4 statements.

Differences are defined

By Ken York
Of the Journal-News

HAMILTON — To understand the difficulty of outlawing X-rated movies, you have to know the difference between "pornographic" and "obscene," according to Hamilton Law Director Gary Sheets.

"Pornography is some sort of depiction that arouses sexual desire," said Sheets. "Obscenity is something that appeals to the perverse or strange."

In the 1973 case of Miller vs. California, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that in order to be illegal, material must be obscene, rather than pornographic, said Sheets.

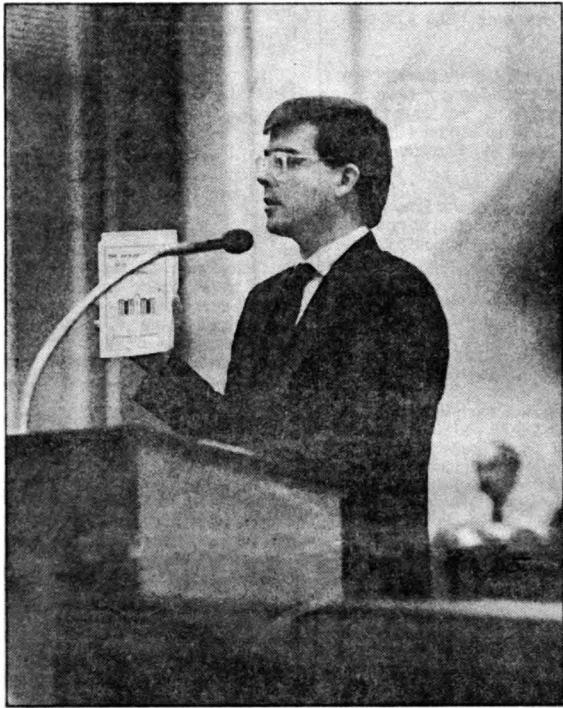
Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger has said he will ask Hamilton City Council to consider an ordinance making it a misdemeanor to possess X-rated movie video cassettes.

"We can't draft an ordinance saying that something's obscene if the Supreme Court says it is not," Sheets said.

In order to be enforceable, an ordinance would have to deal with obscenity, and there are already state laws against that, he said. "If it's illegal under state law, there's no point in making a



Sheets



mirror ordinance."

Obscene material is material that the average person would say violates community standards, depicts sexual conduct in a patently offensive way, and has no serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value, Sheets said.

"It's all very subjective," he added.

Bernie Wong, who serves on the Lawyers Committee of the

region's American Civil Liberties Union, said that "three-pronged test" to determine if something is obscene was applied to the controversial Mapplethorpe photography exhibit last year.

"It was determined to have artistic value," he said.

Wong said officials of the ACLU are aware of the debate about pornography going on in Butler County and may issue a statement.

Spill poses threat

Chlorine cause of evacuation

By Jamie Bercaw
Of the Journal-News

UNION TOWNSHIP — More than 210 people were evacuated from businesses Wednesday after about 30 pounds of liquid chlorine spilled, causing the largest evacuation in the township's industrial area in more than 10 years.

Firefighters ventilated HVC Inc. chemical company on Dues Drive Wednesday and used fire hoses to contain the vapors close to the building where the spill occurred, Union Township Assistant Fire Chief Tony Goller said.

He added the chlorine vapor is hazardous because of the "evaporation and expansion rate of the chlorine" when the compressed liquid comes in contact with air.

Goller said that in the past 11 years only one or two businesses at a time have been evacuated in instances involving spills in the township's southern industrial area.

Lt. Bill Borneman said after some of the chlorine vapor was released from the building it mixed with ammonia vapor from an outside tank and created a "gigantic white cloud" of fumes.

But by using their fire hoses, the firefighters were able to knock the vapors to the ground, said Borneman.

Willard Hammann, vice president of operations at HVC, said if a spill occurs in an enclosed area, the fumes can be fatal.

But "exhaust fans dissipated the material," he said.

"We consider them all dangerous, there is no degree," Borneman said about chemical spills. "Anything that presents a danger to the community is something we need to take care of right away."

Hammann said the liquid chlorine escaped from one of the company's cylinders after an employee began changing the valves.

The cylinders are supposed to be returned empty by the company's customers, he said.

"He immediately shut the leak off and left the premises," Hammann said, adding no injuries or damage to the building resulted.

Hammann said he did not yet know the total amount of liquid chlorine in the cylinder, but the cylinders can hold up to 2,000

(Please see SPILL, Page B3)

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olis 500.



SUMMER Sleuth

Clue No. 23 inside

Female first

Theophilis Borden
makes church history.
Local, Page A5



JournalNews

Hamilton/Butler County, Ohio

Price: 35 cents

Senate plan requires health benefits - or tax

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Health care insurance would be extended to about 33 million Americans now lacking it, under a Democratic proposal to require businesses to offer health benefits or pay a special tax.

The tax would go for a new government health system for people without company-funded plans.

The proposal is among several elements of a plan devised by Senate Democratic leaders trying to come up with a better national health care system.

The results of 20 months of their negotiations were reported Saturday in the New York Times and the Washington Post, but are still considered a rough outline of legislation expected to be introduced next month.

The newspaper accounts were attributed to confidential documents.

Thursday, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., and Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., introduced bills that also would require businesses to provide health care insurance or pay the government a fee.

Their legislation was based on recommendations of the Pepper

Commission, a bipartisan group created in 1988 to study health care reform. Rockefeller said he also was working with the Senate's Democratic leadership on a health care package.

Under the Democratic leaders' plan, as described by the Times and the Post, companies would be given the option of providing health insurance or paying 7.5 percent or more of their payroll to

the government to fund a new federal-state program called Americare.

Everyone not covered by an employer-sponsored health care plan would be eligible for Americare, including those now covered by Medicaid.

The Bush administration has not yet presented any health care plan, but has indicated it is opposed to the "pay or play" concept.

Lottery crosses state's borders

Associated Press

COLUMBUS — Some of the Ohio Lottery's most brisk ticket sales are transacted by agents with outlets near neighboring states. It pays off for some — about 9 percent of Ohio Lotto and Super Lotto winners live outside Ohio.

Business was busier than usual as the week drew to a close, with many Ohioans and many of their neighbors hoping to cash in on a \$20 million Super Lotto jackpot worth \$20 million.

There was one ticket sold naming all six numbers drawn in Saturday night's Super Lotto drawing, the Ohio Lottery said. The jackpot winner will be paid in 26 annual installments of \$769,230, before taxes.

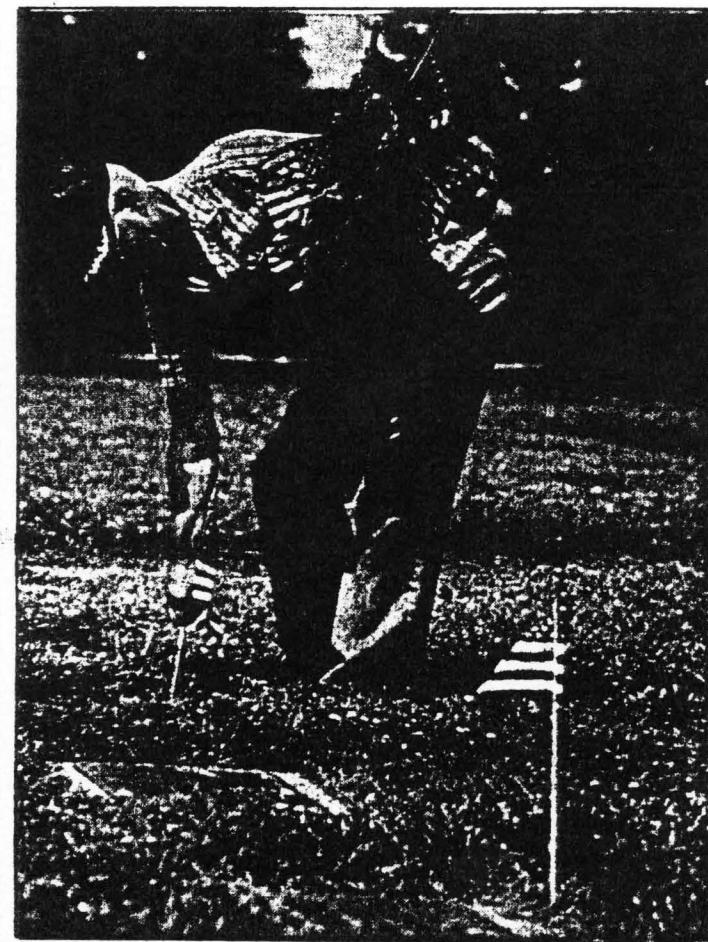
But because of the Memorial Day holiday weekend, it will be Tuesday at the soonest before lottery officials will be able to determine the identity of the big winner.

At Micki's Place, a lottery sales agent in Union City, runners from factories in Muncie, Ind., and Indianapolis regularly buy \$250 worth of Ohio Lotto tickets or more, said owner Micki Barker.

"It really gets busy around here when the Lotto gets into double figures," Barker said, adding that at least half of her Lotto customers are Indiana residents. "Sometimes when the Lotto's

(Please see Lottery, Page A10)

Time to remember



Staff photo by David Schwegmann

Cliff Ebbing, a veteran of the Korean war, works with other veterans and volunteers Friday to prepare for Memorial Day by placing U.S. flags on the final resting places of their comrades-in-arms who made the supreme sacrifice for their country.

City has greeting for guests who stay too long

By Steve Trigger
Of the Journal-News

HAMILTON — Out-of-state drivers who forget to drop an extra nickel into downtown parking meters won't get a ticket or an un-

friendly fine for troubling the city.

Instead, they'll get a greeting card and a friendly reminder that they've overstayed their welcome a bit too long.

The olive-green cards begin with a hearty "Welcome to Hamil-

ton!" and continue "You are currently parked in violation and subject to a citation. We are glad to have you visit with us."

For the convenience of visitors who may need information about the city, the cards list telephone

numbers for the Municipal Building, the Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and the Hamilton Police Department.

On the reverse is a map of Hamilton, providing information on public parking in the city.

City Manager Hal Shepherd said that if a car has license plates from beyond Kentucky or other surrounding states, it will not get a ticket.

(Please see GREETING, Page A10)

Briefs

Sheriff opts to skip debate on obscenity

HAMILTON — Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger joined Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas Wednesday in rejecting an offer for a live radio debate about pornography and censorship.

After indicating Tuesday that he would wait one week before deciding, Holzberger said Wednesday that he rejected Stop Censorship in Butler County Director Nicolas Martin's challenge because the debate would not be beneficial.

"The laws are there and there is nothing to debate about," Holzberger said.

Martin's offer also was extended to Butler County Prosecutor John Holcomb, who is out of town this week.

Automobile argument ends in assault charge

RICHMOND, Ind. — A Hamilton man has been charged by police with attempted murder in connection with an assault on another Hamilton man Monday night.

Timothy Robbins, 23, 1709 S. 12th St., Hamilton, was charged with attempted murder after he allegedly twice drove his car into Samuel Philpot, 29, also of 1709 S. 12th St., Hamilton, at about 7:30 p.m. Monday, according to Richmond police Lt. Kris Wolski.

Philpot had been riding in Robbins' car in the Indiana city when the men had a disagreement over what Wolski described as a "family dispute."

Philpot exited the car, and Robbins allegedly knocked him down with his car, Wolski said. Robbins drove away, then returned driving "in a reckless manner," Wolski said.

Philpot was seriously injured

For the

Almanac

Today is Thursday, 157th day of 1991. There are 208 days left in the year.

Thought for Today: "The Golden Age was never in the past. It is always now." — Thomas F. X. Noble, historian (1608-1661)

Today's highlight in history:

On June 6, 1944, the Allied invasion of Europe took place during World War II as American forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France.

On this date:

In 1844, the Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London.

In 1918, the World War I battle of Belleau Wood, which resulted in a U.S. victory over Germany, began in France.

In 1925, Walter P. Chrysler founded the Chrysler Corp.

In 1933, the first drive-in movie theater opened, in California.

In 1966, black activist James Meredith was shot and killed as he walked along a highway to encourage voter registration.

In 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled states cannot impose an automatic death sentence for defendants convicted of killing police officers.

In 1985, authorities in Brazil exhumed a body identified as the Nazi doctor Josef Mengele, the "Angel of Death" of Auschwitz.

In 1990, a federal grand jury in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., declined to indict the band Live Crew album "They Wanna Be" to jail. The group is asking a Florida appeals court to overturn the decision.

Opinion

JournalNews

Founded in 1886

Serving Hamilton, Fairfield and Butler County
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Ozzie M. Kleinas.....Managing Editor
Jeffrey D. Simpson.....City Editor
Daniel Kwas.....News Editor

Editorials are the opinion of the newspaper, as determined by an editorial board. The board is composed of the publisher, managing editor, city editor and other editors.

Editorial

Why such reluctance to debate porn issue?

It was just a matter of time before the forces in Butler County calling for the elimination of pornography were countered by people saying that would abridge their constitutional rights.

And there can be no doubt that the Citizens for Community Values — like its counterpart organization, Stop Censorship in Butler County — has the strength of its convictions, and is willing to wage its battle until it is resolved.

We applaud that kind of commitment, on both sides. It is only the often raucous debate over issues of public concern that keeps any democracy in fighting trim.

What is disturbing is that some of the more visible supporters of the CCV — notably Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas and Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger — seem to be backing away from the opportunity to defend sentiments they have, until challenged, been so willing to express in public.

SCBC Director Nicolas Martin has publicly challenged the views of the CCV, and taken his perspective to Hamilton City Council and to Holzberger. But attempts to get these vocal supporters of the CCV to meet in a public debate have been turned aside — by Olivas because the mayor apparently doesn't think it an important enough issue; by Holzberger because "The laws are there and there is nothing to debate about."

In a letter to Martin dated June 4, Olivas rejected an offer by the SCBC to debate the issue of censorship as it relates to the current push to eradicate X-rated videos in Butler County. Olivas said he believed little could be accomplished by continuing the discussion, and added he would attend to "other important and real issues facing this community."

The reality is that when CCV initiated the discussion May 4, with its White Ribbon rally on the Butler County Courthouse lawn, pornography became a very critical public debate. When Olivas added his perspective at that rally, terming pornography a "cancer" in the county, he freely joined that debate, albeit in a perfectly safe political environment.

And when Martin and his organization responded by introducing

a discussion of constitutional safeguards, that consideration became an equal part of the debate.

Now the lines are clearly drawn: Citizens for Community Values, supported by the impassioned rhetoric of Olivas, clearly opposes pornography and believes it should be eradicated; Martin and the SCBC believe that, regardless of the value of a given X-rated work, it is the right of the individual to consume that work so long as it violates no one else's rights.

And like it or not, Olivas and Holzberger placed themselves in the debate. We think it wrong, and a little weak, for them now to attempt to withdraw from that discussion.

The people of Butler County, who have a great deal at stake as this issue winds itself to a resolution, would be well-served to hear both sides state their cases in a controlled and lucid manner. If they ultimately must make a decision on the issue of pornography, they must hear the arguments of both sides free from the insulation of rallies and media interpretation. To deny them that is to prevent them from making an intelligent choice.

It's one thing for a politician to state controversial views in the safety of a crowd that agrees with him from the outset. It's another matter altogether for that politician to step outside the protected environment of that crowd and defend his views, prove his point, carry the day. That's precisely the difference between a politician with the strength of the crowd's convictions, and a statesman with the strength of his own.

If Olivas — and Holzberger — are not merely posturing for the benefit of a vocal and politically potent group, they should welcome the opportunity to debate with Martin, with anybody who has a valid disagreement. If they are simply seeking the safety of a popular pose, they should stay where they are, hot on the heels of other "real" issues and far from the topics that affect their constituents now.

Ultimately, those constituents will interpret such hesitation. But by then, it will be too late to talk.

Bicentennial flashback

Compiled from The Hamilton Telegraph newspaper
Hamilton, Ohio — Thursday, June 4, 1891

1. Charles Feil, of Cincinnati, came up here and attended the First Regiment Battery picnic at Woodsdale Saturday. A lady, presumed to be his wife, accompanied him. At the picnic grounds they quarreled and in a fit she left him. He proceeded to get dressed and went home.

\$1 and costs and left for Cincinnati to square things up with his "Lizzie" and get some new toggs.

□□□

Red Trunk Clothing
and Hat House

\$18.50 will purchase a fine im-

Street talk

Where asked: Miami University Hamilton car

Question:

Do you think you will be able to find a job in you when you grad



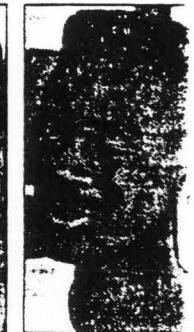
Michelle
Langdon
Fairfield



Greg
Nelson
West Chester

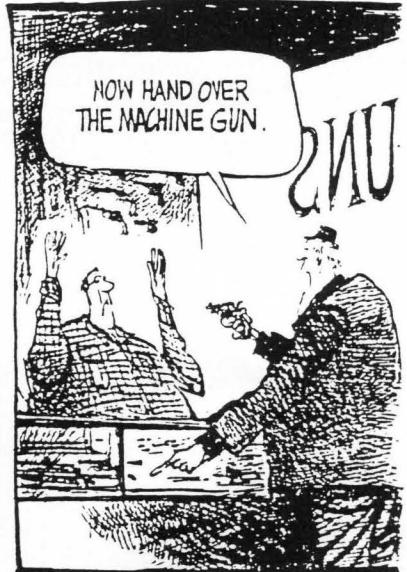
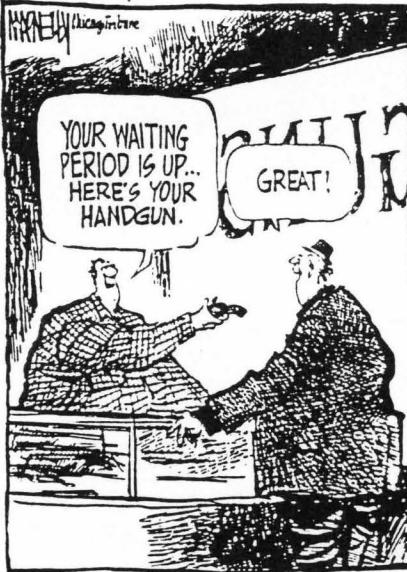


Kim
Warman
Shandon



Ramon
Jones
Hamilton

If the job market dries in the next of years, when I graduate I shouldn't have a problem. Plus, I will be a Miami graduate and name carries weight.



No modern-day fairy tale

BOSTON — We have been to weddings this season, a flight of them. The children of friends are getting married. The churches that we visit ring out with words about union, togetherness, two people becoming one.

At times, it sounds as if the style of marriage is still as rooted in tradition as the bridal gowns. A costume of lace and pearls appropriate for exactly one day.

Sitting in my place, a veteran witness of marriages — both first and second — I have come to wonder how much even our fantasies about perfect marriages have changed.

Once, the dream of an ideal union meant that a wife would follow her husband in obedient contentment. A successful marriage rested, or so it was said, on her willingness to fold her life into and under his.

A generation ago, the fantasy of marriage was rather like that of simultaneous orgasm. The marital achievement manuals said that a husband and wife should

his chance to work in Oregon will be just what she dreamed about in her office in Missouri. That what they would choose for themselves is also happily best for each other. That no one will have to be selfish and no one will have to be sacrifice.

Wasn't this the marital success story that Michael and Hope left behind on the last episode of "Thirtysomething"? The centrifuge of modern life threatened even this "perfect couple." They were spinning out of control — he to California, she to Washington, their marriage to divorce.

But in the last moment, the cushion exerted magically her

lignant career, indeed each a Prize. Together they had children and a marriage spanned 60 years, until her in 1984.

They were defined publicly as a perfect modern couple. Yet Alva Myrdal, who began marriage under the ideal ofness in work and love, cast doubt that possibility.

A writer, ambassador, a minister who focused her formidable intellect to dilemmas ranging from family to disarmament, came to describe herself and her more like "consort"ships, criss-crossing the world stronger together.

Yet the question Myrdal endlessly pondered was "How do I come myself?" Her pursue "self" struggled within me and strained its bounds.

Here is how her daughter describes the dilemma: This item arises each time two join their lives together. In extent does each one then a separate person while



Ellen
Goodman

Opinion

Tuesday, June 11, 1991

Fairfield Echo, Jou

Fairfield Echo

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Richard O. Jones
Echo Editor

James Anderson
Advertising Manager

Ozzie M. Kleines,
Managing Editor

Editorials are the opinion of the newspaper, as determined by an editorial board. The board is composed of the publisher, Echo editor, managing editor and city editor.

Editorials

Why the reluctance to debate on porn?

It was just a matter of time before the forces in Butler County calling for the elimination of pornography were countered by people saying that would abridge their constitutional rights.

And there can be no doubt that the Citizens for Community Values — like its counterpart organization, Stop Censorship in Butler County — has the strength of its convictions, and is willing to wage its battle until it is resolved.

We applaud that kind of commitment, on both sides. It is only the often raucous debate over issues of public concern that keeps any democracy in fighting trim.

What is disturbing is that some of the more visible supporters of the CCV — notably Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas and Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger placed themselves in the debate. We think it wrong, and a little weak, for them now to attempt to withdraw from that discussion.

The people of Butler County, who have a great deal at stake as this issue winds itself to a resolution, would be well-served to hear both sides state their cases in a controlled and lucid manner. If they ultimately must make a decision on the issue of pornography, they must hear the arguments of both sides free from the insulation of rallies and media interpretation. To deny them that is to prevent them from making an intelligent choice.

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FDA looking more like a watchdog

Street talk

Where asked: Kroger Sav-On, Fairfield

Question:

Do you believe poverty is a problem in Butler County?



Tom
Bradford
Fairfield



Janet
Bradford
Fairfield



Ted
Donohue
Fairfield

"No. Not if you want to get out and look for a job."

"Not really. There are a lot of jobs but people don't want to start working."

"I really haven't seen any except down in Cincinnati."



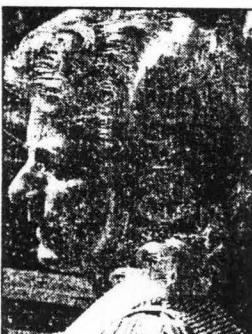
Lori
Hester
Cincinnati

"It's a problem everywhere."



Marty
Hampel
Fairfield

"Yes. There's so many poor people. People are homeless and don't have anything to eat."



Thresa
Palma
Cincinnati

"I think it's a problem everywhere."

Congress ignores expert advice

"Too many generals, not enough soldiers..." This phrase describes why Congress passed a \$291 billion defense budget long on pork and lean on items truly needed to protect our country's national security.

Less than two months after America's victory in the Persian Gulf war, it would seem obvious that knowledgeable officials like Secretary of Defense Cheney and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell should be the leaders leading us in deciding which weapon systems and military bases are essential to defending our country, and which are no longer necessary.

But instead, some members of Congress felt that their own personal and political motives were more important in determining what to include in the defense budget. What took place on the House floor dealt less with defense of our country than a handful of members defending pet projects to win them votes back in their home districts.

For an example of expert advice that went unheeded by some members of Congress, the man who planned the U.S. air campaign against Iraq, Lieutenant General Charles Horner, stated that the war had taught him two lessons — the importance of stealth technology, and the need to defend against ballistic missiles.

What does that mean? It means we need stealth technology like the B-2 bomber as well as missile



John
Boehner

fourth-largest army in the world, the U.S. won overwhelmingly in a battle that took place primarily in the air.

I voted for the defense budget backed by Secretary Cheney and officials like Lt. Gen. Horner. It seemed clear to me that the Congress should accept the guidance of proven leaders who know what we need to defend our country.

Lt. Gen. Horner and others who led the U.S. through Operation Desert Storm urged Congress to vote for the stealth technology of the B-2 bomber, a program included in the Administration's budget but cut from the alternative proposal.

The B-2 bomber is the long-range version of the F-117 short-range stealth fighter-bomber, which was extremely successful in air combat missions during the Persian Gulf war.

More important, this type of stealth technology enabled the U.S. to fight a war mostly in the air, and avoid the loss of life which may have occurred with a longer ground fight.

istration had requested.

Rather than fund proven technology like the B-2, the rest of Congress put themselves in charge and instead voted to exclude money for outdated weapons and programs which the Pentagon didn't even request.

Those members voting against the Cheney budget weren't trying to save any money. The alternative defense budget, pushed through by Congressman Les Aspin of Wisconsin, Chairman of House Armed Services Committee, wore the same total price of \$291 billion as the defense budget recommended by Cheney, stealing money away from projects like the B-2, the programmed generals were able to find district projects that won't be useful for defending our country, might work in defending someone's congressional seat.

The bottom line is that by 1993 the defense budget is scheduled to shrink by 25 percent. To put into perspective, by that date amount spent on our national defense will be at its lowest percentage level of GNP since 1939.

There was justification for downsizing of the military, as we saw the threat of the Soviet Union decrease, and tensions in Eastern Europe go down with the fall of the Berlin Wall. But that does not mean we can downscale in a haphazard way.

As we have seen by the Persian Gulf war, we need to be prepared to defend our country and freedom, and the world.

Cheesy pie

There's another Italian pie and it's made with four different cheeses.
Food, Page B5



Baker heads to Germany to open talks on the new Europe.

Foreign, Page A3

Reds play comeback to complete weekend sweep of Phillies.

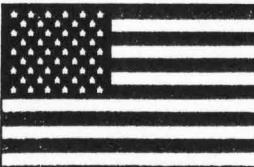
Sports, Page B1

JournalNews

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Hamilton/Butler County, Ohio

Price: 35 cents



Monday
June 17, 1991

Weather

Cloudy: Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows 60 to 65. Tuesday, partly sunny. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms east central and south central. Highs in the 80s. Details, Page A2.

Nation

Killer executed

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — A killer who had been on death row for 17 years was executed by injection early today for the murder of an antique-gun collector.

Jerry Joe Bird, 54, was pronounced dead at 12:21 a.m., 12 minutes after the lethal drugs began to flow.

Bird was the 40th person put to death in Texas and the 147th in the nation since the U.S. Supreme Court in 1976 let states resume use of the death penalty.

Holcomb: Porn stance the law

By Ken York
Of the Journal-News

Members of a local organization arguing against the forced removal of adult films from county video stores should take their grievances to Columbus, Butler County Prosecutor John Holcomb said.

"If others want to take part in some sort of debate, they should take it to the legislators in Columbus," Holcomb said Friday.

The prosecutor was referring to an invitation he rejected from the leaders of the group Stop Censorship in Butler County, challenging him to a

debate about the pornography/censorship issue. Holcomb said he doesn't think his stand against pornography in Butler County is an issue at all — it's simply a matter of enforcing the law.

Nicolas Martin, who heads up the SCBC, last week formally withdrew his challenge to debate the pornography issue when he was turned down by Holcomb, Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger and Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas.

"There's no question but there is a law," he said. "But officials have the option of prosecuting on the basis of community standard."

Martin said the offerings of a given video store are open to the inspection of law enforcement officials each day, and there is no indication

you can't sell or rent obscene materials, period."

If the public doesn't want that law to be enforced, the change must be made in Columbus, he said.

Martin pointed out the U.S. Supreme Court has left discretion for prosecuting obscenity cases in the hands of local officials.

"There's no question but there is a law," he said. "But officials have the option of prosecuting on the basis of community standard."

Martin said the offerings of a given video store are open to the inspection of law enforcement officials each day, and there is no indication

that store owners are more in violation today than they were in the past.

"Unless Mr. Holcomb can show that the nature of material in video store is markedly changed recently, the fact that he hasn't brought prosecutions against the stores to date implies that they're in compliance with the law."

Holcomb noted the law governing obscenity specifies only materials judged in court to be obscene. Pornographic materials are not illegal to sell or rent until they're proven obscene in court.

(Please see PORN, Page A10)



Holcomb

Porn

(Continued from Page One)

"It would be nice if we could reach some sort of accord of what's acceptable to the community. If that's not possible . . . then I'm afraid it's going to have to be decided in court."

Martin said the SCBC, which now has a membership of about 900 people, will be distributing its publication throughout the county and plans to seek support during the Butler County Fair, which begins July 21. He said he hopes the organization will have as many as 4,000 members by the end of the fair.

By John Chalfant
Associated Press



Porn effort limited

By Michael J. Shearer
Of the Journal-News

HAMILTON — The success of an effort to rid Butler County of pornographic videos may depend more on prosecutors and police departments in Hamilton, Middletown and Fairfield than on the three elected public officials who support the movement.

County Prosecutor John Holcomb, who has spoken on behalf of anti-pornography efforts, said Monday that because Ohio law lists renting or selling obscene material as a misdemeanor offense, he can not take legal action in any incorporated area or in four of the county's 13 townships.

In those areas, Holcomb said, state law only gives him the authority to file felony charges.

Of the 11 Butler County video stores currently renting adult tapes, Holcomb apparently could only take action against one store in West Chester. Four stores operate in Fairfield, one in Hamilton and five in the Middletown area.

While Holcomb, Sheriff Richard Holzberger and Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas have been critical of the availability of the x-rated tapes, other Hamilton and two Fairfield officials were more restrained in their comments Monday. They also questioned Holcomb's claims regarding jurisdiction in misdemeanor cases.

"I don't have any information in front of me about any obscene tapes being rented at the store," said Hamilton Law Director Gary Sheets, who said his job does not include researching the information unless city leaders decide to press obscenity charges.

"It's a serious decision to start down that road," he said.

In Fairfield, City Law Director John Clemons said his office has not made any decisions concerning the stores that rent x-rated

(Please see PORN,
Page A6)

The Journal-News, Tuesday, June 11, 1991

Holcomb refuses debate

By Michael J. Shearer
Of the Journal-News

HAMILTON — Stop Censorship in Butler County's efforts to stage a debate on pornography struck out Monday when County Prosecutor John Holcomb said he would not participate.

Holcomb joined Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas and Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger in rejecting SCBC Director Nicholas Martin's offer to debate the issue next month.

"I have no intention to debate

him," Holcomb said Monday. "I think it's insulting to suggest a debate over whether a law on the books should be enforced or not."

If Martin is unhappy with Ohio's obscenity law, he should pursue the matter with the state legislature and not local officials, Holcomb said.

"My duty is to uphold the law on the books and that's what I intend to do," he said.

Martin said Monday that he was considering challenging officials with the anti-pornography group Citizens for Community Values to the debate instead.

Porn

(Continued from Page A5)
tapes.

Clemons plans to determine how a meeting scheduled for Wednesday between Holzberger and video store owners works out before proceeding.

"I don't know what the outcome

will be," he said. "If we determine that they are in violation of the law, we might take action."

Both Fairfield Police Chief Gary Rednour and Hamilton Police Chief Tom Knox said they felt commenting on whether pornography creates problems in the area would be inappropriate.

Local

Briefs

Fairfield Twp. makes insurance changes

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP — The township trustees have announced that all township insurance policies will now be handled by the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority.

OTARMA, the 2-year-old insurance company designed specifically for townships, costs about \$600 less a year, and provides broader coverage, said Trustee President Don Dixon.

"It's a kind of self-insurance made up of a pool of all townships in the state," Dixon said. "It's our first year with them, but they made a proposal that fit all of our township needs perfectly."

The decision to change from the township's current carriers, Wilkes Insurance Co. and Ingram Insurance Co., was made at a lengthy trustee meeting that started last Wednesday and that had to be reconvened the next day. The current policies expired at the end of May.

"It was not a decision made easily," Dixon said. "Ingram and Wilkes insurance companies had done a great job for us, but the price made the difference."

Body of 6-month-old found near her home

CINCINNATI — The body of a 6-month-old girl has been found in a cardboard box about a block from her home, police said. They identified the girl as Demetria Dudley, daughter of Teresa Dudley, 18.

The baby was reported missing early Saturday. Her body was found Sunday, police said.

Stores invited to talk obscenity

By Mike Shearer
Of the Journal-News

HAMILTON — Eleven area video stores that rent adult video tapes will receive an invitation later this week from Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger asking them to attend a meeting about obscenity June 12.

Holzberger said Monday he hopes the meeting in his office will provide an opportunity for him and the store owners to develop a consensus on what video rentals may be considered obscene.

Lou Epstein, owner of Video Showplace in Fairfield, said he

Sheriff seeks consensus on adult tapes

welcomes Holzberger's offer and will attend the meeting.

"I think you're always better off talking about a situation and seeing if you can reach a solution," Epstein said. "Hopefully, he'll be willing to listen."

Despite Holzberger's offer, Epstein said he feels a majority of Butler County residents — especially the Stop Censorship in Butler County group — oppose efforts to rid the county of adult tapes.

By renting the tapes, the stores are not violating any laws, Epstein said.

"Pornography is legal. Obscen-

ity is not," he said. "None of these tapes have been ruled obscene."

Holzberger maintains that he and Butler County Prosecutor John Holcomb are simply trying to enforce current obscenity laws.

"I'm not trying to censor people in Butler County," Holzberger said. "I'm seeking compliance with the law."

Following an anti-pornography rally coordinated by Citizens for Community Values last month, Holzberger said the event's success showed that residents did not want pornography in the county.

Despite the formation of SCBC,

Holzberger said he still plans to take any action necessary to get rid of the tapes.

"I have been aware all along that there would be two sides to the issue," he said.

On Friday, SCBC Director Nicolas Martin challenged Holzberger, Holcomb and Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas to a debate on censorship next month.

Both Olivas and Holzberger said they were still considering the proposal Monday.

Holcomb, who called for making the possession of pornography illegal at the CCV rally, was out of

town Monday and unavailable for comment.

Even if all three officials refuse Martin's offer, the director promised to pressure them into voicing their opinions in the debate.

"I'm hoping to convince them that it's their civic duty," he said. "I'm not going to drop it very easily."

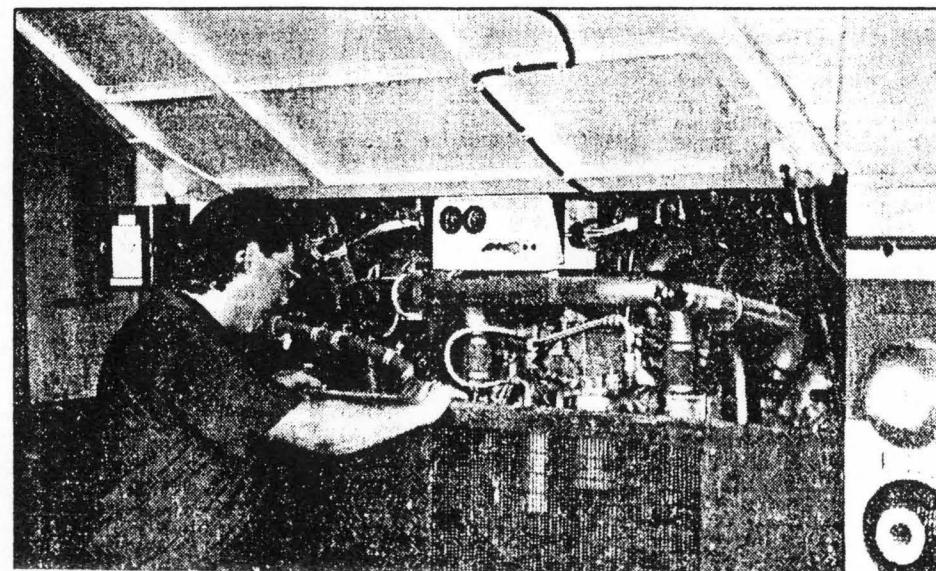
If all three men do refuse his offer, Martin said he might challenge CCV representatives to a debate.

"I'm hoping not to do that, but it's a possibility," he said. "They're not major players as far as I'm concerned."

City offers free rides

By Steve Trigger
and Ken York
Of the Journal-News

HAMILTON — The public can



Thief steals phone calls

By Michael J. Shearer
Of the Journal-News

MADISON TOWNSHIP — Most criminals break into buildings either to vandalize the structure or to steal expensive items.

Sheriff to discuss porn with video dealers

By Michael J. Shearer

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"Pornography is legal. Obscenity is not," he said. "None of these tapes have been ruled obscene."

Both Holzberger and Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas turned down an offer by SCBC Director Nicolas Martin for a live radio debate on pornography and obscenity.

Holzberger said that he rejected

CCV prepares for the second phase of its anti-porn campaign

By Michael J. Shearer

One month after Citizens for Community Values coordinated a rally against pornography, its leaders are preparing to begin the second phase of efforts to rid Butler County of pornographic video tapes.

Southwest Ohio CCV President Phil Burress said Tuesday the second phase will include efforts to educate residents about

Martin's challenge because the debate would not be beneficial.

"The laws are there and there is

how obscenity laws work. Final details of the effort are still being worked out, but Burress said CCV members might go door to door to speak with residents.

"We're basically going to be educating the people we can reach easily of their rights," he said.

CCV plans also involve working through county churches to encourage education on pornography and the problems it presents to teen-age children, said

nothing to debate about."

Olivas saying nothing would be accomplished by participating in

CCV Fairfield chapter President Connie Haruch.

"With the changing times we need to uphold standards," she said. "We need to make parents aware of the need for education on pornography."

The CCV's first action phase involved researching the pornography problem in Butler County and staging the rally, Burress said.

Both Burress and Haruch said

the debate.

The debate offer was made to give Olivas a chance to defend his

CCV's ability to enlist the support of public officials like Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger and Prosecutor John Holcomb have aided in the group's efforts. About 3,000 families have joined CCV in Butler County, they said.

"We're extremely successful," Burress said. "Our campaign is geared to let people know they must speak up. Silence is acceptance."

statements at the rally implying that video stores in Butler County were renting child pornography,

BUILDERS SQUARE

The warehouse with everything for your house.

TREATED DECKING
189

GET
DECKED OUT
AT
BUDGET PRICES

2" X 4"- 8'

APA
APPROVED

3/4-INCH CDX
PLYWOOD

• Strong construction
grade

1275
#0260042
4' X 8'

2" X 2" X 42"
TREATED
BALUSTERS
75¢



Family
Counselor
Dottie
Parish

When a father is distant

Q. I have a problem with my father. When I was 17 we had a big conflict and our relationship has never been the same since. That was ten years ago.

Elisha Morgan museum

By Linda Wright
Of the Journal-News

FAIRFIELD — With the recent award of a state grant, the Elisha Morgan Mansion may be one step closer to becoming the site of a city historical museum.

The Ohio Arts Council approved a \$6,200 grant last month for architectural fees to renovate the

Georgian-style brick structure, built in 1817, said Robert Wessell, president of the Elisha Morgan Farm Museum Inc., the non-profit group that owns the Ross Road mansion. However, Wessell said the grant amount the museum will actually receive depends on upcoming state legislature appropriations.

"We're proud of (the grant), but

it's just a small chunk of the \$200,000 needed to renovate the building," said Michael Sage, secretary of the Elisha Morgan Farm Museum Inc. "A city is well served by preserving its heritage. A place like the mansion gives legitimacy to the fact that Fairfield is more than just a bedroom community."

Sage said that last summer the Elisha Morgan Farm Museum

Inc. non to "take and to The mu mansion for \$1, group's restored year tim seum.

Sage

Sheriff hopes for porn solution

By Bill Jackson
Of the Journal-News

HAMILTON — Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger said Tuesday he hopes his meeting with local video store owners today will result in a solution to the continuing controversy regarding the availability of X-rated video tapes in Butler County.

Holzberger said he invited store owners to the meeting "to go over Ohio obscenity laws and to seek voluntary compliance" with those laws.

He said Tuesday that he hoped for a good turnout after having sent out "about 24" invitations to all video store owners whether the businesses stock adult videos or not.

It's "just in case they think about having those videos in the future," Holzberger said.

Although he asked to be invited, Holzberger said Nicolas Martin, director of Stop Censorship in Butler County, was not on his mailing list.

"He is not a store owner and I don't particularly care to see him," the sheriff said.

Contacted Tuesday, Martin claimed Holzberger had "reneged on a promise to me that he would let me be at the meeting."

Holzberger said he had high

Stop Censorship group's newsletter nets cool response by criticized local officials

By Bill Jackson
Of the Journal-News

HAMILTON — The centers of attention in a four-page newsletter published by Stop Censorship in Butler County were cool in their response to the newsprint circular when contacted Tuesday.

Titled, "Censorship, the Dark Cloud Over Butler County," the newsletter paints Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas, Butler County Prosecutor John Holcomb and Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger as community censors because of their positions regarding the availability X-rated video cassettes in the county.

hopes for the meeting.

"I have discussed the issue ... with several owners and their attorneys and it has been positive so far," he said. "They wish to have dialogue (and they do not want) an expensive and prolonged court battle."

Video store owners who agreed to talk to the Journal-News Tuesday said they were hopeful, but

Olivas said the document "looks professionally made" and includes quotes from Thomas Jefferson as well from local politicians on both sides of the issue.

Olivas, who in the publication is called "arrogant and ... rigidly puritanical," said the group was "entitled to (its) opinion."

Holzberger called the document "pure poppycock" in reference to a section that suggested he would like to enter homes and arrest residents for possession of X-rated videos.

Nicolas Martin, director of Stop Censorship in Butler County, said 10,000 copies of the newsletter were printed.

unsure what could be resolved.

"I don't know what's going to happen until" Wednesday, said Brenda Beier, manager of West Coast Video in Fairfield. "I'd like to see some kind of solution come out of it."

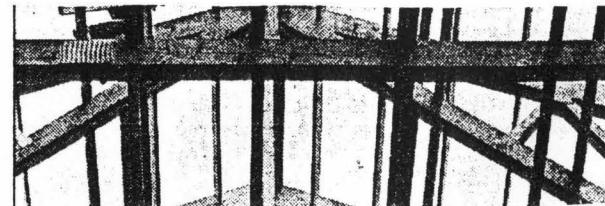
In his letter, Holzberger said that he hoped to "work this out in a way that is conducive to all Butler County" residents.



A
fa
er

notner with the bracket. I kept reading about flag rules, getting ready to attack again, and it was getting closer and closer to Flag Day.

I learned that, in a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that a federal law making it a crime to deface or burn the U.S. flag was contrary



districts is 7.8 percent. Talawanda, home to Miami University and Hueston Woods, ranks first of 10 schools in the state which exceed the limit, with 41.4 percent of its property in tax-exempt real estate.

State Sen. Barry Levy, R-Middletown, said he was very disapp-

other side — maybe we can again," he stated. "It's fair that we be compensated for all of this un-taxable property. It's certainly fair that we be compensated in part, and that's all this bill does."

Talawanda Superintendent Dennis Leone asked how far Talawanda must go to show need.

amendments by Democrats to restore cuts in welfare and other services, and the Democrats all voted against the proposal.

The two-year, \$26.9 billion budget now returns to the Democratic House where leaders have said they will reject the changes and call for a

Section **B**
The Journal-News, Thursday, June 13, 1991

Local

communicate feelings and proclaim stands on questions.

Our flag was officially adopted June 14, 1777, when the Continental Congress resolved that "the Flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white, that the union be 13 stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation."

Before the stripes had been accompanied by the British Union Jack to designate that the rebels were demanding historic rights of British citizens. The colors, obviously, came from the British flag.

I wanted to tell Old Dad that a woman made the first flag for our first president, but I couldn't find proof that Betsy Ross made the first flag. I debated with myself about just telling the story as I have always heard it. But, naaa.

I got all involved in looking up information about the flag.

After Vermont and Kentucky joined the union in 1795, two stars and two stripes were added. You can see that flag in the Smithsonian Institution now. In 1818 the design was changed again. This time they went back to the 13 stripes and decided they'd use stars to designate the number of states.

And that's what we've done. Adding up, I think the flag has been through 27 changes, the most recent was after Hawaii was admitted to statehood in 1960.

The day came, when, armed

Cooperation key to winning war on porn

By Ken York
Of the Journal-News

HAMILTON — Video store owners and Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger agreed to a rough armistice Wednesday in the war over renting X-rated videotapes.

Representatives of 11 video stores — some of whom brought their attorneys with them — accepted Holzberger's invitation to a conference aimed at ironing out their differences.

"I think everybody needs to realize that Rome wasn't built in a day," Holzberger said after the one-hour conference. "I think the video stores want to work with us to help police themselves."

Lou Epstein, owner of Video Showcase in Fairfield, said he was somewhat relieved by the sheriff's apparent willingness to discuss the matter.

"I don't think anybody wants to take this to court," he said. "This isn't one of the greater issues facing our community."

The video store owners agreed to meet with the sheriff again Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Butler County Jail to go over lists of their adult movies, Epstein said.

In return, Holzberger promised not to prosecute any of the store owners for renting the tapes until after the August meeting.

"I felt it was a very positive meeting," Holzberger said. "(The store owners) are business people who wish to conform with the law, and they have asked me to work within the framework of the law."

That framework is a section of the Ohio Revised Code which makes it illegal to possess, rent or sell obscene materials.

The ORC does not, however, prohibit pornography, and the difference between the two is important to understanding the problem, Epstein said.

Pornographic materials are not obscene unless they fail a three-pronged test outlined by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 in the case Miller vs. California.

That test consists of determin-

ing that the materials appeal to prurient interests; have no artistic, literary or political value; and violate community standards.

Just because a movie is pornographic doesn't mean it's legally obscene, Epstein said, adding that such determinations usually must be made in court.

Epstein said he might be willing to pull a few movies off his shelves to appease the anti-pornography movement, but he said he would not remove all of them.

Voinovich ventures forth to sell liquor privatization

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Gov. George Voinovich visited a private agency liquor store Wednesday in suburban Reading to drum up support for his plan to get the state out of the retail liquor business.

"The dollars this would generate are absolutely needed at this time," Voinovich said. "The arguments for this move are overwhelming."

He estimated that turning li-

quor sales over to private stores

privatization would cost 835 full-time jobs.

"What we've got here is big union bosses in the House trying to save 835 jobs vs. education," he said.

He estimated that in the first year of a switch to private agency stores, an additional \$11 million would be available to education, and that would increase to \$33 million the second year.

Across the street from the market, a half dozen demonstrators in support of the homeless chanted.

Good look



nd said.

reviewed the issue," said Mayor David

It stayed in large bundles, not releas

ing the injurious fiber materials."

County



The Cincinnati Enquirer/Tony Jones

their front porch on Beasley Fork Road in Adams County on Thursday during a seven-day tour.



The Cincinnati Enquirer/Tony Jones

West Union on Thursday. The tour ends at Washington Court House.

ACLU enters Butler County anti-porn fight

Effort to remove adult tapes unconstitutional, group says

BY JOHN R. CLARK

The Cincinnati Enquirer

A representative of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said Thursday that Butler County officials may be violating the constitutional rights of video-store owners in demanding that the stores remove adult videotapes.

Kevin O'Neill, legal director for Ohio ACLU, said research will be done to determine whether the ACLU will take legal action against county officials or "voluntarily defend the video-store owners from this governmental harassment."

O'Neill met Thursday with representatives of about 10 county video stores and the newly organized Stop Censorship in Butler County organization in Fairfield.

O'Neill said county law-enforcement officials are ordering videotapes removed from the shelves based on titles and not content, without meaningful investigation.

He said one store was ordered to remove *Doing it Debbie's Way*. "That video happens to be an exercise tape starring Debbie Reynolds," he said.

"The government is not free under the First Amendment to restrain speech on the basis of content and is not free to tell people what they can have on their shelves or what they cannot have on their shelves without doing any kind of meaningful, factual investigation."

O'Neill said the store owners also are afraid of "economic strangulation."

"The local authorities can mount prosecution after prosecution, and defending against such prosecutions is expensive."

O'Neill said he was advised by the store owners that none of them sold child pornography "nor would they countenance child pornography to be sold in their stores."

Nickolas Martin of Fairfield, organizer of Stop Censorship in Butler County, called the meeting "extremely informative."

"We now have a framework for understanding how the rights of Butler County people can be protected," he said.

Sheriff Richard Holzberger has been meeting with store owners in efforts to reach agreement on what videotapes are objectionable and should not be rented or sold. He was unavailable for comment Thursday.

John Holcomb, the county prosecutor, said he is not involved in the sheriff's meetings with the video-store owners.

"I don't know who this character Nickolas Martin is. . . . I do know about the ACLU, and anything they're for, I'm against, and that's all I'll have to say on the subject," Holcomb said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

“I do know about the ACLU, and anything they’re for, I’m against, and that’s all I’ll have to say on the subject.”

—John Holcomb,
Butler County prosecutor



Fairfield passes on proclamation

First Amendment Day proposal debate centers on obscenity clause

By Linda Wright
Of The Journal-News

FAIRFIELD — City officials refused a request for a First Amendment Day proclamation because the proclamation's author rejected a clause saying the First Amendment doesn't protect obscenity, said the director of Stop Censorship in Butler County.

Nicolas Martin, author of the proclamation, said he objected to a disclaimer proposed by city officials because his proclamation simply celebrates the bicentennial of the Bill of Rights.

The proclamation refers to First Amendment guarantees of freedom of religion, speech, the press, peaceable assembly as well as the right to petition government for a redress of grievance.

"After all, this year is the bicentennial of the First Amendment, not the bicentennial of exceptions to the First Amendment," Martin said. "I told them it was inappropriate to burden the proclamation with exceptions to the First Amendment."

Asked if he had rejected Martin's request for a proclamation, Fairfield Mayor Robert Wolpert declined comment.

"That's just the way I'm handling it," Wolpert said. "If you asked me about the weather today, I would say no comment about that too."

Martin said the mayor also informed him that he asked the City Council for help in deciding whether to issue the proclamation, and that the council decided last week to decline issuing of the proclamation without a disclaimer.

"They swept everything under the rug because they don't want the liability of having to identify their views on censorship," Martin said.

Member Mark Scharringhausen said the City Council simply wanted to stay out of the pornography issue because it is best handled on a county-wide basis.

"We're not getting involved in this issue," Scharringhausen said. "We have a lot of other issues to deal with, like waste water management and flood control."

Council member Jim Menninger said he objects to Martin's proclamation request because he feels it could be used to further a political agenda.

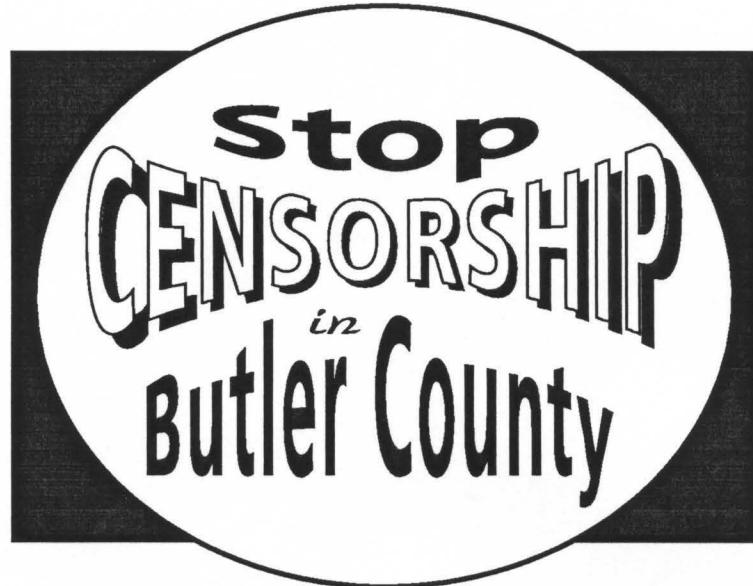
At odds with Menninger and Scharringhausen are council members Marilou Duderstadt and Linda Bradford, both of whom said they would have endorsed the proclamation.

"I feel we should have given him the proclamation unfettered," Duderstadt said. "The proclamation was generic. The council adding the disclaimer draws us into the (obscenity) issue."

Bradford said she supported the proclamation, but she felt the addition of the "obscenity clause" was a logical addition given the circumstances of the request.

"With Nicolas Martin director of the stop censorship group and opposing the anti-pornography group, it was a logical thing to add," she said. "We wanted to state and make our position clear as a council that we do not support obscenity, which is contrary to the laws of the United States."

Voice your right to
rent or buy the video
tape of your choice



P O Box 18 - 771
Fairfield, OH 45018
(513) 677 - 6055

31 May 1991

Mayor Adolph Olivas
City of Hamilton
Room 204
20 High Street
Hamilton, OH 45011
fax: 867-7335

Dear Mayor Olivas:

I know you will be as delighted as I was to learn that WMUB, the public radio station of Miami University, has offered one hour of the station's time for a live debate on censorship in Butler County. I will represent the anti-censorship contingent, you will undoubtedly want to appear for the other side. Invitations to join this broadcast debate have also been sent to Mr. Holcomb, and Mr. Holzberger, who share your antipathy for personal choice in the rental of video tapes.

I am informed by WMUB News Director, Bob Long, that the station has selected Monday July 1, from 7 to 8 pm for this important opportunity. Mr. Long has thoughtfully indicated that they would consider alternate dates if the July 1 date is inconvenient.

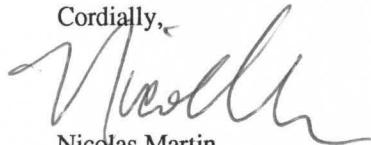
In your interesting speech to the CCV's White Ribbon rally, you made it quite clear that the rental of adult video tapes is the greatest threat to the well-being of local residents. You said that Butler County was "sick" due to the presence of "video tapes that exploit children, that molest children, that show children being raped." You said that adult tapes were a "cancer" which degraded, humiliated, subjugated the women of Butler County, and made them less than human beings.

I know you will be pleased to have this live opportunity to discuss and debate these and the other unique views you expressed at White Ribbon Day. Many people have told me they would like to know how much it will cost the city to prosecute video stores, as you suggest. I am sure that the occasion of the debate will be widely publicized and you will be guaranteed a large audience with whom to share your views.

I look forward to continuing our productive dialog on these issues.

Please respond by June 7 so that the proper arrangements can be made with WMUB.

Cordially,


Nicolas Martin
Director

"I know no method to secure the repeal of bad
or abominable laws so effective as their
stringent execution."

Ulysses S. Grant



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AND
CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, 4 June 1991

Mr. Nicholas Martin
P.O. Box 18-771
Fairfield, Ohio 45018

Dear Mr. Martin:

I am in receipt of your correspondence of 31 May 1991 soliciting my appearance on WMUB to discuss the topic of "censorship in Butler County." I see little being accomplished by continuing what you termed "our productive (*sic*) dialog." If memory serves me correctly our first encounter was more remarkable for your penchant to interrupt than by any manifest gift for listening. Therefore, I respectfully decline your invitation.

My comments at the White Ribbon rally, which you most thoughtfully transcribed and made available for public dissemination, speak clearly as to my opinion on the true issues of obscenity and pornography. Considering your purported concern for the protection of individual's rights, indisputably you would safeguard my right to voice my belief and conviction.

Despite your disappointment, I trust that you shall be able to carry on without me in much the same manner than as if I were present. I, on the other hand, shall be attending to the other important and real issues facing this community as I have for the past seven and a half years.

Thus, I remain. . .

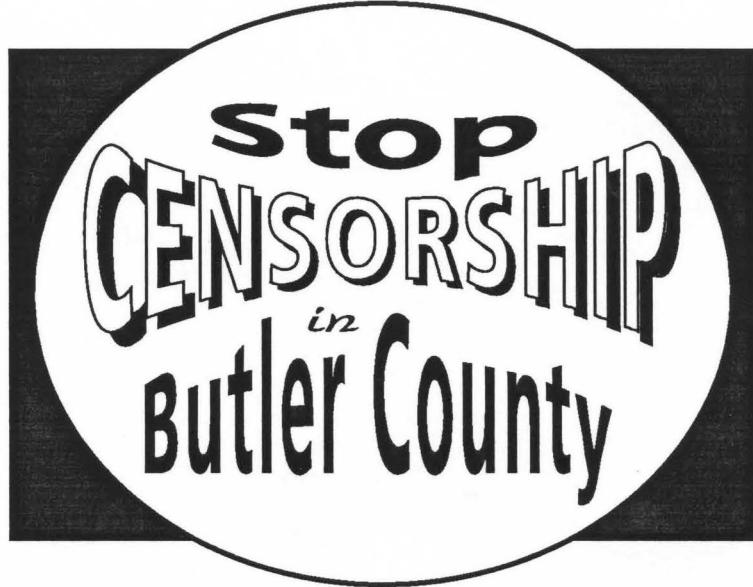
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adolf Olivas". Below the signature, there is a horizontal line.

Adolf Olivas, Esq.
Mayor
City of Hamilton!

ao/ao
cc: Bob Long, WMUB News Director

Voice your right to
rent or buy the video
tape of your choice



PO Box 18 - 771
Fairfield, OH 45018
(513) 677 - 6055

31 May 1991

Mr. John Holcomb
Butler County Prosecutor
216 Society Bank Bldg.
PO Box 515
Hamilton, OH 45012
fax: 887-3489

Dear Mr. Holcomb:

I am pleased to inform you that WMUB, the public radio station of Miami University, has offered one hour of the station's time for a live debate on censorship in Butler County. I will represent the anti-censorship forces at the debate, and I am sure you will want to speak for the other side.

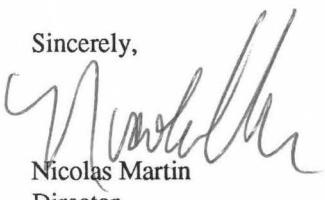
WMUB News Director, Bob Long, informs me that his station has selected Monday July 1, from 7 to 8 pm for this important opportunity. Mr. Long has thoughtfully indicated that they would consider alternate dates if the July 1 date is inconvenient.

Your detestation of and proposals to eradicate adult video tapes in Butler County are of great interest. In fact, your idea to make it possible to arrest people who own copies of these tapes is one of the most widely discussed topics of late. I am frequently asked for the details of what is coming to be known as the "Home arrest" plan. This live broadcast will be the ideal occasion for you to explain your plan. As a taxpayer, I am also personally anxious to ask you how much expense local governments will accrue in arresting and litigating cases against video stores and people snared for possession. The publicity attending this debate will guarantee a large audience eager for details.

Invitations to join this broadcast debate have also been sent to Mr. Olivas, and Mr. Holzberger, who share your antipathy for personal choice in the rental of video tapes. The media have also been notified.

Please respond by June 7 so that the proper arrangements can be made with WMUB, which expects us to arrange our appearances among ourselves.

Sincerely,

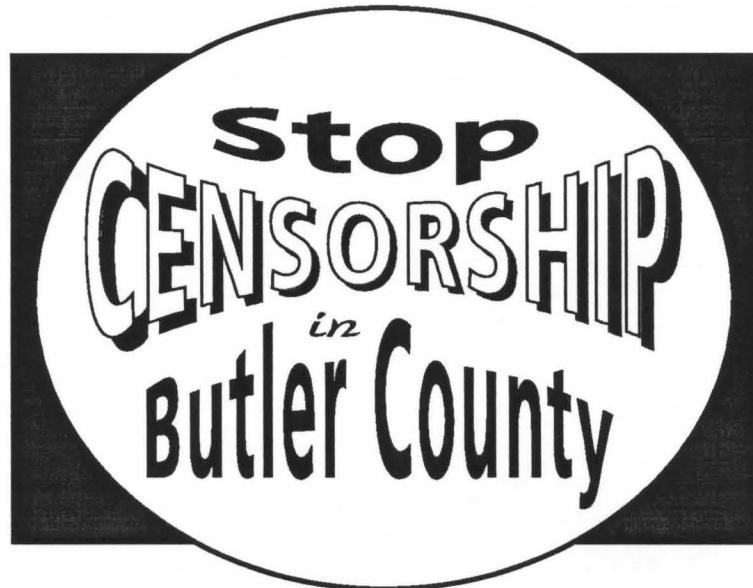

Nicolas Martin
Director

enc: 1

"I know no method to secure the repeal of bad
or obnoxious laws so effective as their
stringent execution."

Ulysses S. Grant

Voice your right to
rent or buy the video
tape of your choice



P O Box 18 - 771
Fairfield, OH 45018
(513) 677 - 6055

31 May 1991

Sheriff Richard Holzberger
123 Court Street
Hamilton, OH 45011
fax: 863-5226

Dear Sheriff Holzberger:

I know you will be excited to learn that WMUB, the public radio station of Miami University, has offered one hour of the station's time for a live debate on censorship in Butler County. This will give us the opportunity, before a large audience, to continue the compelling discussion we began in your office recently.

WMUB News Director, Bob Long, informs me that his station has selected Monday July 1, from 7 to 8 pm for this important opportunity. Mr. Long has thoughtfully indicated that they would consider alternate dates if July 1 is inconvenient.

Your advocacy of Mr. Holcomb's "Home arrest" plan for people who possess video tapes is widely discussed but not widely understood in the community. This live broadcast is the ideal occasion for you to detail this plan, and also to explain the imminent danger to the community which you evidently think is presented by adult tapes. Since you told me that you were definitely going to start arresting video store owners, maybe you can use this opportunity to reveal the date this will occur (if it doesn't happen before the show).

Invitations to join this broadcast debate have also been sent to Mr. Olivas, and Mr. Holcomb, who share your antipathy for personal choice in the rental of video tapes. The media have also been notified.

Please respond by June 7 so that the proper arrangements can be made with WMUB, which is leaving it up to us to coordinate our appearances.

Cordially,

Nick Martin

enc: 1

"I know no method to secure the repeal of bad
or abnoxious laws so effective as their
stringent execution."

Ulysses S. Grant

Porn

(Continued from Page B1)

Jacobs said. "And they're not about to lose votes."

Jacobs, a former member of both the executive and central committees of the Butler County Democratic Party, said the pornography issue is different from the abortion issue in obvious ways, but there are similarities as well. "Generally, the people who are anti-pornography are likely to take an antiabortion stand," Jacobs said.

County Dems not taking an official porn position

By Ken York
Of the Journal-News

HAMILTON — Three prominent elected Democrats in Butler County have taken a conservative stance on the issue of pornography, but Democratic leaders say the party has no official position on the issue.

Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger, County Prosecutor John Holcomb and Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas, all registered Democrats, recently have made known their opposition to video stores that rent or sell pornography.

Dr. Dan Jacobs, political science professor at Miami University, said the conservative stance by the three Democrats doesn't surprise him. "The Democratic Party in Butler County has always been a pretty conservative organization," Jacobs said.

"This is not really a political issue. It's a legal and moral issue. The party itself is not involved in the question."

David Smith
Democratic Party chairman

David Smith, chairman of the Butler County Democratic Party, said the party has no official stance on the issue, and he thinks the issue is for those individual officeholders to decide.

"This is not really a political issue," Smith said Friday. "It's a legal and moral issue. The party itself is not involved in the question."

But Butler County Republican Chairman Carlos Todd said he thinks the issue is a political one, and he's pleased to see some of the

opposition agreeing with the traditional GOP stance.

"I certainly applaud those taking a stand against pornography. Basically, the Republican Party is against it, but we haven't discussed the issue," Todd said, adding that he couldn't speak for all GOP members in the county.

Jacobs agreed, defining a political issue as "any issue that can make a difference in whether someone gains or loses votes."

It's possible for the law against selling and renting obscenity to be enforced only when it's politically expedient because the Supreme Court has left the decision of determining "community standards" to local officials, he added. "In many places, not necessarily here, prosecutors take their positions based on whether it will gain them votes or lose them votes,"

(Please see PORN, Page B3)

Section B

The Journal-News, Saturday, June 1, 1991

Debate may ensue over x-rated videos

FAIRFIELD — The director of Stop Censorship in Butler County challenged three Butler County officials Friday to a debate on x-rated videos and censorship.

The debate would include SCBC members, Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger, Hamilton Mayor Adolf Olivas and County Prosecutor John Holcomb, said SCBC Director Nicolas Martin.

Olivas, Holzberger and Holcomb have all been critical of x-rated videos during the past month. If they accept Martin's offer, the debate will be held July 1 and aired live on WMUB.

ACLU enters Butler County anti-porn fight

Effort to remove adult tapes unconstitutional, group says

BY JOHN R. CLARK

The Cincinnati Enquirer

A representative of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said Thursday that Butler County officials may be violating the constitutional rights of video-store owners in demanding that the stores remove adult videotapes.

Kevin O'Neill, legal director for Ohio ACLU, said research will be done to determine whether the ACLU will take legal action against county officials or "voluntarily defend the video-store owners from this governmental harassment."

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"The government is not free under the First Amendment to restrain speech on the basis of content and is not free to tell people what they can have on their shelves or what they cannot have on their shelves without doing any kind of meaningful, factual investigation."

“I do know about the ACLU, and anything they’re for, I’m against, and that’s all I’ll have to say on the subject.”

—John Holcomb,
Butler County prosecutor



O'Neill said the store owners also are afraid of "economic strangulation."

"The local authorities can mount prosecution after prosecution, and defending against such prosecutions is expensive."

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"We now have a framework for understanding how the rights of Butler County people can be protected," he said.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1991 SECTION C

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

*The Associated Press contributed
to this report.*

Fairfield in review

Proclamation nixed when sides disagree

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"That's just the way I'm handling it," Wolpert said. "If you asked me about the weather today, I would say no comment about that too."

■ INSIDE FILE

Sheriff searches for mask



Sheriff Holzberger

Handmade masks are a new source of contention between Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger and a Fairfield man heading opposition to a crackdown on adult videos.

Nicolas Martin is head of Stop Censorship in Butler County, which is challenging a campaign by the sheriff and County Prosecutor John Holcomb to rid local video shops of X-rated movies.

Martin's group set up a booth at the Butler County Fair, where — along with literature — they handed out masks made from enlarged photos of Holzberger.

Martin claimed the sheriff showed up at the unattended booth Tuesday and rifled through the literature looking for a mask. Martin said he considered filing a criminal trespassing charge against Holzberger. But because the sheriff's office and prosecutor would handle the case, "I probably wouldn't get anywhere."

Holzberger said he went to the booth looking for Martin, noticed the fliers and looked through them to see whether the false faces were there.

Martin said the sheriff came by again Wednesday looking for the same item, but they were all gone. Martin advised him to check with one of several sheriff's deputies who had stopped at the booth earlier in the day to chat — and to pick up masks.

Reporter: IRENE WRIGHT



Another Exclusive Whistleblower Report

Censorship in Butler County

It was high noon—time for the long-awaited shootout between Sheriff "Clean Dick" Holzberger and the anti-censorship gang. When the smoke cleared the sheriff lay mortally wounded. The agreement with the video stores reached last week was a tremendous—but unreported—victory for smut lovers of Butler County.

Less than half the video stores agreed not to rent six tapes that had been found obscene elsewhere in Ohio. BFD! That still leaves X-rated inventories 99% intact.

Why did Holzberger cave in? Had he suddenly turned over a new, libertarian leaf?

No, Holzberger lost an intensely fought political battle in which he was dogged and defeated at every turn. Volunteers distributed thousands of leaflets and worked many hours to protect the Bill of Rights. It was a unique watershed event.

It was enough to drive a man to drink. Or if rumors about Holzberger are to be believed, it was enough to drive him home after he had had too much to drink.

For the second time in two years the Citizens for Community Values (CCV) lost a colossal battle. This time, though, their defeat was even more important. They were beaten not by 12 jurors, a la Mapplethorpe, they were defeated by ordinary citizens of a community whose values the group purported to represent. Behind all that pompous bluster and sports celebrity endorsements, the CCV was no more than a paper tiger. They had to cancel their video store picketing due to a lack of participants. They wouldn't even debate on live radio. They were run unceremoniously out of town.

Three months ago Holzberger said he would get Hamilton to pass a law making the possession of adult video tapes illegal. He said numerous times that he wanted all adult tapes gone and that busts would commence soon. Prosecutor John Holcomb told the White Ribbon Day anti-pornography rally

that he wanted similar state legislation. And Mayor Adolph Olivas accused stores of renting kiddie porn, an accusation which was not substantiated in a single media outlet.

Olivas recanted his accusations before Hamilton Council. "I was just talking off the top of my head," Olivas said, and was never heard from again on the matter of censorship. Prosecutor Holcomb also disappeared, except to mumble a few inanities about the kooks at the ACLU.

Only Holzberger took time to catch on. By the time the Butler County Fair arrived last month, "Clean Dick" had become a laughing stock. Mention of his name brought sneers and laughter.

Holzberger now says video stores can keep adult tapes, so long as they rent only to adults (which they were doing anyway). "Do it Debbie's Way" is safe.

But the reason Holzberger backed down has gone unreported, especially by the *Hamilton Journal News*, which appears to be bending over backwards to shield the sheriff from public embarrassment. He was beaten by rare organized community opposition to censorship, the sort which the Cincinnati area has never witnessed before.

CCV has retreated like Iraq's elite Republican Guard, pausing only to issue occasional press releases from the sanctuary of Hamilton County.

CCV president Phil Burress complains about the credibility of anti-censorship leaders. But coming from an admitted former porn addict, most people are no longer impressed.

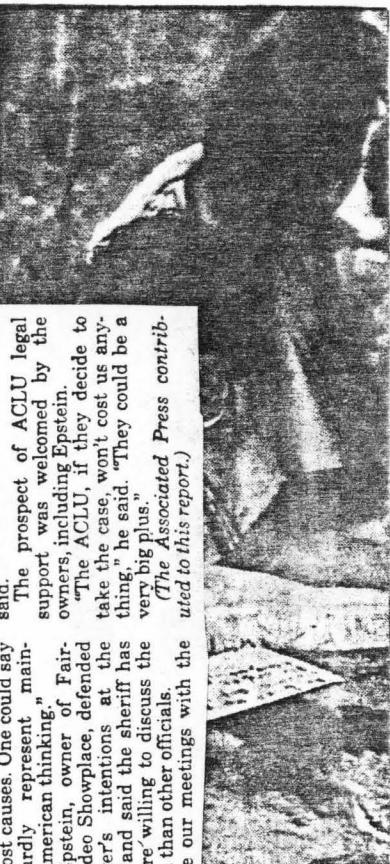
"We busted the myth of supremacy of the bluenoses," said Nicolas Martin, founder of Stop Censorship in Butler County."

His organization takes credit for Sheriff Holzberger's stunning defeat.

"Our only question is how the news media missed the story," Martin added.



Learning from the past



Staff photo by John Jenco
Holcomb of Hamilton learns
t's old-world marketplace

(Continued from Page One) O'Neill came to Butler County on an invitation extended by Stop Censorship in Butler County. Director Nicolas Martin, whose group formed after a May 4 rally by members of the Citizens for Community Values, who hope to curb pornography in the county. Martin also has challenged public officials who have expressed support for the CCV to a public debate on pornography.

While he briefed the store owners on obscenity laws, O'Neill also expressed fears that they already were being harassed by local officials and prone to prior-restraint. He was especially critical of last week's meeting between Butler County Sheriff Richard Holzberger and the store owners.

At that meeting, the owners agreed to go over their tape lists with Holzberger in August. In return, Holzberger pledged to not prosecute any of the stores until after the meeting.

By agreeing to these terms, the owners might be allowing Holzberger to exercise prior restraint, O'Neill said.

John Holcomb, the county prosecutor, said he is not involved in the sheriff's meetings with the video store owners.

"I do my talking in court... I'm no part of that," (Holzberger) knows it, (The video store owners) know it," Holcomb said.

"I know about the ACLU," Holcomb said. "As a general rule,

whatever they're for, I'm against

Hamilton/Butler County, Ohio

Price: 35 cents

ACLU may join area video fracas

Legal director speaks to owners

By Michael J. Shearer
Of the Journal-News

FAIRFIELD — The American Civil Liberties Union may represent Butler County video store owners in court if they are prosecuted for renting adult video tapes.

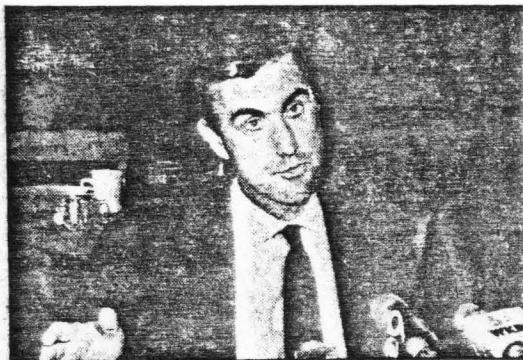
Kevin O'Neill, the ACLU's Ohio legal director, said Thursday his organization may help the owners battle local officials who have promised to enforce obscenity laws.

"We clearly view what's happening here as a threat to First Amendment rights," he said. "We may well choose to step in and assist those people who are being harassed."

O'Neill was in Fairfield to address video store owners on the technical aspects of obscenity laws and civil rights. About 20 people attended the meeting.

While O'Neill refused to make a firm commitment to the owners, he did say he has concerns about the ability of the owners to pay for legal costs if they face prosecution. Even if the stores win in court, the estimated \$20,000 to \$40,000 cost of a trial could bankrupt small store owners, he said.

"We want to help out in any way we can economically," he said. "This whole thing is political grandstanding at the expense of little mom and pop stores."



Staff photo by Matt Borgerding

Kevin O'Neill, legal director for the ACLU met with area video store owners Thursday concerning their battle over X-rated videos.

'I know about the ACLU. As a general rule, whatever they're for, I'm against. I'm speaking, in that respect, about the ACLU as an advocate of far-out, lost causes. One could say they hardly represent mainstream American thinking.'

John Holcomb
county prosecutor Holcomb



is on **Concato**

From our readers

Questions remain in battle over videos

Editor:

The news reports of the censorship debate have left me with a few questions.

If pornography is the threat that the Citizens for Community Values says it is, how come the FBI reports that attempted rapes in the U.S. dropped by one-third from the 1970s through the 1980s? That is exactly the same period when adult videos became widely available.

If, as they claim, the CCV has 3,000 member families in Butler County, how come they could only get a couple of hundred people — mostly kids — to turn out for their White Ribbon rally? They promoted the rally for months. And how many of the people who came were from Butler County?

Would the CCV allow shows

like "Cheers," "The Golden Girls" or "A Current Affair" to be on TV? Don't those shows portray moral values which the CCV thinks should be outlawed? What about HBO and Showtime, with movies like "Bull Durham"? Would they be banned?

What would the CCV do with books in the public library that contain explicit sex, or advocate moral views the CCV disagrees with? Do they want books banned that portray premarital sex positively? If the government can forbid publicly funded clinics from recommending abortion, can it or forbid publicly funded libraries from having books which say favorable things about abortion?

If it is made illegal to rent videos, what will stop a huge black market from developing, with all the crime and corruption of Prohibition in the 1920s? According to the media, thousands of couples already trade homemade adult

tapes. Should we empty the prisons so we can make room for couples making love on tape?

If Butler County starts busting video stores and arresting people for possessing adult tapes, how much will the trials cost us taxpayers?

Why won't the politicians agree to the radio debate with the group Stop Censorship in Butler County? What are they afraid of? Do they serve all of us, or just the CCV?

Why is it that the same people who complain the loudest about government getting involved in school prayer, sex education, and creationism, beg for the government to get involved in telling people what to watch on TV?

If, as Mayor Olivas says, "Butler County you are sick," is his presence as Hamilton's mayor a symptom of that disease?

**Patricia Celis
Fairfield**



Cheap Shots

The evil that men do...

Following property-tax reduction specialist Dickie Weiland's appearance as a witness for the prosecution at the Mickey Esposito trial last week, one of Weiland's friends called to complain about coverage in Kevin O'Hanlon's *Enquirer* story that a paragraph reciting Weiland's sleazy past was unduly harsh and should not have been included.

The paragraph read: "Weiland pleaded guilty in 1976 to submitting a false financial statement in connection with a federal Housing and Urban Development project. He voluntarily surrendered his license to practice law and served less than a year in prison."

Noting that six of the ten properties at issue during Esposito's trial were owned by Weiland's clients, most people believe that Weiland's background is indeed an important part of the story.

Meet "Mr. Republican"

After spending all week at the Butler County Fair handing out funny Sheriff "Clean Dick" Holzberger facemasks, Nicholas Martin, founder of Stop Censorship in Butler County, now claims to be the driving force of the Butler County GOP.

"Carlos Todd may be the titular head of the party," Martin said, but I speak for the heart and soul of the party. Someone needs to fill the void left when Buz Lukens retired."

"I've paid my dues," Martin said, explaining that the sheriff had personally raided his booth several times during the week looking for his X-rated Traci Lords videotapes.

Holzberger made no apologies for his lack of due process. "I can be wherever I want to be. My badge entitles me to that," Holzberger said.

Martin, however, was undaunted and claimed that his time at the county fair had been well spent. "More than 7000 people joined my organization during the week," Martin added. "Now let's see if they can stop me."



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"How
do you
think "La
Boom"
got its
name?"



Another Real Guest Editorial by Bunky Tadwell

Why do men want to wear women's clothing? Before someone who has nothing better to do than wrap him or herself in the tattered cloak of Political Correctness, let me state that I do not care whether men wear women's clothing or not. But I saw a sign the other day that brought the subject to mind.

The practice does have a long and more or less reasonable history. The theatre, of course, both ancient and modern, has gone along with what is now referred to as "cross dressing," although in the theatre, such garb would be merely costuming.

Some of the better known examples in fairly recent times include Ray Bolger in "Charly's Aunt," Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis in "Some Like It Hot." Flip Wilson as Gearldine. Milton Berle every chance he got. All playing a part, all playing for laughs. Hardly the kind you see on Oprah when she features "Men Who Dress Like Women And The Women Who Marry Them."

John Cleves Symmes, while on duty as a Colonel in the Revolutionary War, was said to have disguised himself as a woman to sneak through enemy lines. Later a Judge of the New Jersey Supreme Court, he worked deals to acquire all the land between the Miami Rivers and north to Kingdom Come. A nice man, really. You can look it up.

Getting back to the sign...it was displayed in Delhi. Delhi, for those of you who live east of Vine Street, is an area that once was mostly farm land and greenhouses which has been converted into a kind of Colerain Avenue with low flying airplanes. It can boast of...of... well... John Pont coaches football out there. They are not going to build a bridge there. Dusty Rhodes uses Delhi as a base to launch attacks against the Hamilton County Courthouse and a bunch of old deaf nuns who couldn't hear the airplanes anyway. And, it is also

home to that past prime morning man on the fast fading WKRC. WKRC, after getting rid of all its talent, thought it could save things by having the publisher of this rag, John Foster Dullass, appear with the morning man, Jerry Thomas. Mr...I guess...Thomas, is known for dressing as an old woman and passing out Good And Plenty at the school yard. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Dullass make a wonderful pair.

Now Mr. Thomas was billed on the sign in Delhi as the MC for an upcoming ball game. A skirt ball game. A skirt ball game is where supposedly straight men dress as women and mince around playing softball. It is, from the reaction of the crowds, very funny.

You might think such exhibitions would bring protests from the feminists. Well, it did. Once. As the men dressed as ugly, hairy legged women took the field, the protestors ran out on the field. Then the players' wives got into it. No one could figure out which set of ugly, hairy legged women were the participants, so everyone went home.

Anyway, if you want to know why men dress as women, go see Mr. Thomas MC the skirt game in Delhi. Call him. He'll be happy to tell you when and where.

Mr. Dullass, by the way, does not dress like a woman. On alternate days he is Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee.

The views and opinions in this column do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the author.

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